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Joy Clifton to H A Hall, 31 May 1929

Yundurup
West Murray
via Pinjarra
May 31st 1929

Dear Aubrey

I'm just writing to tell you & Helen, Eric Wellard says he is leaving by the *Minderoo*, on the 26th of June, so I told him to call & see you, if he had the time, & cared to. So I hope I've done nothing wrong! You know, he does not appeal to Lou & I as a relation exactly; as the Teutonic side of the family keep us well showered with [---] water! (We don't know him really). But did it more on account of the old pioneering Hall Wellard days & Richardsons (A.R.). Also Len & Rupert & their Alverstoke wives & then I remembered also, Helen is niece on the maternal Cecil Clifton side & R E P W on the paternal. E Wellard said he thought he was bound for Cossack, as I have just had a letter from Ernest, will tell him also. Wool classing for Dalgety's is E.W.'s job, seems to go round with a contractor all the shearing. Lily I understand is going to Gabyon station to Lu Gillam for the winter, a very economic arrangement! Personally I wish she had gone to her *own* friends, not mine!!!!

I think the Old Time Ball last night must have been a very interesting spectacle. Helen's Aunts were in full force by the a/c. I wonder if Loulou was able to go! (she has been having a very busy worrying time all this month). Ger would have liked me to go, if he had felt well enough, in time, usual neuritis attack, but it eased up yesterday, thankful to say, hot Boracic lint fomentations had a very soothing & healing affect. We have decided, it is a periodical abscess that forms. I still believe there is a splinter of bone, the X rays, Drs have not located.

Ernest said the races are over, & several dances, also the weather perfect. Ye Gods! can't say the same here! A few nice fine days & then a deluge! 2 girls and an uncle motored from Perth, the girls to spend some of the vacation with us, but as they were bogged on the Murray Road &

nearly capsized they abandoned the car, & hatless, stockingless, shoeless, carrying luggage, in the pouring rain, they staggered to Ravenswood hotel, for the night, then telephoned to us, so we went up per engine (boat) next day & found poor Kath Mitchinson & Joy Turton in such a state of unnerving, they would not come any further, so Joy's Uncle Mr Pearse, after getting his car hauled out, took them back to Perth, the trip cost him £5=0=0. Loulou nearly came, but her work prevented her, & I can tell you I was thankful she didn't. Of course this side is nearly always under water in winter. But much worse, as the Roadmakers shovelled mud out, then ran a tractor over it, imagine the result! I was thankful no one was killed!

Loulou has been wanting to come, to ask advice about her work, she likes it so much & has been getting her £2=0=0 a week. Marie et cie have given her a good report. But sad to say, both partners have married & they are in an uncertain mind, about carrying on, one married an officer on a Singapore Boat & he is always quarrelling with her, to give it up, on a/c of bad health. Anyway the Clientele is large & fashionable & she does not know what to do about it meantime she reduced the staff Lou amongst them, gave her a reference & all that, said she would send for her if she carried on again, but poor girl, it just crumpled her up, she thought it was a sure thing & would not have resigned Girton, unless it was.

Anyway, she set to work, answering ads, & was only 2 days out of work & has been making as much & more privately. Then Marie et Cie sent for her to do some work for them, but don't know for how long.

Lou thought of going as governess to Gnowangerup, to E H Richardsons, but as there was something else she had an eye on & Mrs Murdoch (proff's wife) told her they were very straight laced & that she thought she could make enough sewing. That is how things are now beastly uncertain!

Ger was so keen about the Marie et Cie business, he asked me to see if he could finance Loulou into the concern, but of course, can't tell yet what will be the outcome.

Diary continued, June 2nd.

Just heard from Lou, she said the Ball (H.S.'s) was wonderful, the Australind set (R.C.C.'s) seems to have been the best. Lou wore my dress, the one Mother made for the Masonic Ball in Roebourne, which you & I opened, remember? Lou said it was greatly admired. The Bussells had some good old time frocks. Murray Denny's wife was amongst them.

Sister Madeline has written & asked Loulou if she will go to Parkerville to help with the remaking of clothes. Lou said it seems a good proposition & thought it would fit in very well. Kath Mitchinson is in charge of the kindergarten there & Lou says she K is quite thrilled to bits about it. Of course there is something else on the cards, but it is a case of waiting. I'm rather glad for Lou to go to the hills for a time, as she has never been inland & this place is no good for young chests & throats, if weak. I mean in winter.

Lu Gillam has been in the St Andrews Hospital, Perth & had an X ray taken, but evidently she was not operated on, as she has returned to Gabyon & Mr Gillam has just written to Ger & said nothing. I think he will have to study her health he has cut down his building operations here very much since her bad health.

Freda Newton has been a trump as always, she told Lou to live in her flat while she was in the East, thinking she might be hard pressed, but the good Mrs Darker said "no! you are not to think of leaving us", anyway it is a comfort to have kind friends, although Lou was able to more than pay her way. Then Freda offered the flat to Ger & me, for half price, but we could not take it as we are still retrenching, since trousseau & wedding.

Just met a Mrs Langmiel, whose husband died of sunstroke at Freenie Bros oil plant, she said the Geologist was so very kind & his name was Talbot, our friend I presume.

I've finished reading aloud the Apsley's book to Ger, very brightly written without prejudice (*The Amateur Settlers*) I much prefer the Northern Territory & Nor'West portion.

I want to impress you. The Wellards are not to know any of Lou's & my plans please dear One! I'm going to ask about the block of land in S P myself, as I fear Lily would *block* me if she knew. I am sorry her husband has allowed her to alienate him from such a dear old man, as his Uncle Cecil, even when he was dangerously ill, Eric did not go near them & the poor things are so hurt & can't understand why they are ignored.

After

I'm very sad to know, our old friend Stanley George Jeffery has passed out, some brain growth, he was ill a couple of months in Westminster Hospital. A good friend & soldier. I do wish his Home people would send for the [?boy]. His wife is better left to the imagination.

Dr Bradfield who is building the Sidney Harbour bridge asked the Darkers to show his son Allen (25) round Perth, as he was on holiday. Lou said he had been tied to his mother's apron strings too long to be anything but a little bantam, though he wanted to spend money freely they were so glad when the trip was over.

Well old man the pen has meandered so good luck & much love to you all

Joy